

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9 are pending. Claims 4, 8, 11, 12, 17 and 18 are canceled. Claims 14 and 15 are withdrawn as directed to non-elected species or invention. Claims 10, 13, 16, 19 and 20 are withdrawn as directed to non-elected species or invention and are currently amended.

The Amendments

Claims 1 and 2 are amended to delete that R₁ being an alkyl in response to the double-patenting rejection. Claim 2 is further amended to be consistent with Claim 1.

Claims 13, 16, 19 and 20 are amended to delete “preventing” and to correct the claim language.

The amendments are necessary to overcome the final rejection, or put the claims in a better form for appeal. The amendments do not introduce any new matter, or require a new search.

The Examiner is requested to enter the amendment and reconsider the application.

The Response**Provisional Double-patenting Rejection**

Claims 1-3 and 5-9 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claim 1 of Application No. 09/643,138.

The Examiner states that Claim 1 of ‘138 Application is generic to the instant Claims 1-3 and 5-9 when alkyl moieties are claimed, specifically OR₁. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to delete R₁ being an alkyl. Therefore, the provisional double-patenting rejection is overcome in view of the claim amendment.

Rejoinder

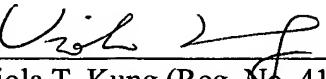
Once the Examiner finds the elected product claims allowable, Applicants request the Examiner to rejoin the withdrawn method claims (Claims 10-20), which depend on the allowable product claims. (MPEP 821.04)

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the application is in good and proper condition for allowance. Early notification of allowance is earnestly solicited. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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